



March 2025

Introduction

This Newsletter is to give you an overview of the activities and discussions of council, along with the status of various projects and initiatives that are underway with the city. The intent is to be as transparent as possible.

Vision

“Galax is a vibrant, diverse, friendly, citizen engaged community that pursues a culture of excellence.”

Mission Statement

“The city provides high quality public services to sustain an excellent community in which to live, work and play.”

<https://galaxva.com>

In like a Lion, Out like a Lamb?

Mayor’s March Newsletter

Dear Citizens,

As we step into March, I want to take a moment to reflect on the progress we’ve made and the work that still lies ahead. Our community continues to grow stronger, and I am grateful for each of you who contribute to making our town a better place to live, work, and raise families.

Community Updates

We’ve had some exciting developments recently, and I want to highlight a few important initiatives:

- Spring Cleanup Efforts** – Warmer weather is on the way, and with it comes the perfect opportunity to tidy up our streets and neighborhoods. Look out for details on upcoming cleanup events where we can all pitch in to beautify our city.
- Local Business Growth** – We continue to encourage small business development, and I’m excited to see new ventures taking shape, including Mountain Man Grill bringing delicious meals to our city. Supporting local businesses helps keep our economy strong!

Upcoming Events

- Spring Festival Planning** – We are in the early stages of planning a spring event for the community. If you’d like to volunteer or offer suggestions, your input is welcome.

A Call for Unity

As always, I encourage us all to work together, look out for our neighbors, and continue fostering a sense of unity. Your ideas, efforts, and voices make a difference. Let’s keep moving forward together! If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please don’t hesitate to reach out. My door is always open.

Sincerely,

Willie

Willie T. Greene, Sr
Mayor, City of Galax



March City Council Meeting 3/17/2025

Here is a quick summary of our last Council meeting.

RECOGNITION OF RETIREMENT



Jerry D. Lawson
Water Department
(27 Years, 4 Months)



Robert Isom Jr.
Police Department
(37 Years, 3 months)

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARINGS



Planning Director Doug Williams
The Galax Planning Commission held Public Hearings on Tuesday, March 3, 2025 to receive comments on the following zoning requests:

Hills Rental Company has requested a zoning district change for Parcel 65-3, located at 343-355 Railroad Avenue, from M-2 Heavy Industrial to B-2 General Business.

Planning Commission Action:
Recommendation for Approval.

David Wilson has requested a Conditional Use Permit for Parcel 55-135, located at 123 W. Grayson Street, for approval of a first-floor apartment use not fronting on a designated street in a B-2 General Business District per Section 160-93.E of the City Zoning Ordinance.

Planning Commission Action:
Recommendation for Approval.

David Wilson has requested a Conditional Use Permit for Parcel 55-72, located at 200 W. Oldtown Street, for approval of rental storage units in a B-2

General Business District per Section 160-93.G of the City Zoning Ordinance.

Planning Commission Action:
Tabled for additional information relative to (1.) formal definition of "Storage Warehouse" and (2.) the City's response to the Applicant's request to modify the sidewalk and street parking.

City Council approved the proposed rezoning for Hills, the Conditional Use Permit for Wilson, and tabled the Storage Unit request awaiting Planning Commission recommendations.

PUBLIC HEARING: AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 4-10 (A) & (F) OF THE GALAX CITY CODE TO REFLECT CURRENT AND FUTURE CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULES

City Manager Burnette - The City Council conducted a public hearing to receive public comments on a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 4 of the Galax City Code, Article II, 4-10 (A), and (F) to update the Code to reflect current and future City Council meeting schedules. Proposed changes included updating the code to reflect current meeting dates, allow flexibility should the meeting schedule change over time, move public comment to the beginning of Council meetings, include new potential agenda categories (such as a consent agenda), and allow flexibility on the order of business at City Council meetings. **City Council took comments and approved the proposed changes to the Galax City Code for meetings.**

March City Council Meeting 3/17/2025 (Continued)

AVIATION INITIATIVE



Mr. Larry Lederer

Mr. Lederer described a proposed Aviation Sciences Program Initiative. He has been working with other governments in the region to gain support for this program through the Wytheville Community College (WCC). He described how a relationship between the airport and WCC college can affect Galax career development and employment opportunities.

City Council agreed to provide general support for the proposed initiative.

VDH REGULATION OF TATTOO PARLORS



Meagan Helmick, VDH

In Virginia, tattoo parlors and artists are regulated primarily by the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation's (DPOR) Board for Barbers and Cosmetology which lays out requirements for

structures, training, and safety. DPOR also requires applications and licensing for both parlors and artists. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) does not have a regulatory mandate within the Virginia Administrative Code or Code of Virginia for VDH staff to be trained in or provide inspection or permitting for tattoo operations. However, the state does make allowance for localities to establish inspection requirements and that VDH "may" inspect and regulate tattoo parlors. Galax City Code includes requirements that tattoo parlors be inspected and permitted by the Director of Public Health. Ms. Helmick discussed options for how the City and the VDH can work together to provide the necessary oversight of local tattoo parlors.

City Council directed staff to consult with the City Attorney and report back to council.

OLD BUSINESS

Request to Apply for DCJS Police Grants

Chief Cooper requested approval to apply for two DCJS grants. The first is up to \$75,000 for equipment and requires a 25% match. The second is an officer wellness grant that has no local match required.

City Council approved the request for staff to submit the grant requests.



Chief Dewitt Cooper

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Apply for an ARC Grant



Grants Administrator Young

Ms. Young requested approval to submit an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) grant for continued renovation of the Rex Theater. ARC funds are broadly aimed at encouraging economic development in the Appalachian Region by funding projects such as infrastructure, entrepreneurship support and workforce development. Additionally, ARC funds may support the goal of building a strong and sustainable asset-based economy by bringing jobs and prosperity to Appalachian communities while preserving their character. These projects address the leveraging of cultural assets, natural assets, community assets, structural assets, and economic assets. A resolution needed to be approved to apply for the grant.

City Council heard the presentation and approved the submission of the ARC grant along with the approval of the required resolution and local match.

March City Council Meeting 3/17/2025 (Continued)

Request for Resolution related to Tobacco Commission Grant

Grants Administrator Young – In February, Council approved for Staff to make an application to the Virginia Tobacco Commission for \$300,000 for equipment and construction at the Rex Theater. Staff has done so but a resolution from Council is required for the application. Staff requested approval of the required resolution.

City Council approved the submission of the required resolution.

specific departments such as Tourism and Parks and Recreation, the new brand, if approved, will be the main brand used for City business and for City equipment, signage, letterhead, etc. The brand will be used in the place of the City seal for most business operations and the tagline “A City in Harmony” will be used where appropriate in marketing the City.

The tagline ties back to the City’s musical heritage and our living in harmony with our natural environment and each other as City residents and businesses. City Council was asked to adopt the City’s new brand and tagline for use throughout the municipality.

City Council adopted the City’s new brand and tagline for use throughout the municipality.

Request to Hold Public Hearing for VDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant

Grant Administrator Young – Council was requested to schedule a public hearing for the VDOT Transportation Alternatives Grant for Grayson Street improvements at the May 2025 meeting. Destination by Design will be on hand at that meeting to present the proposed improvements for the grant as well as the detailed design for the Rex Lane construction.

City Council scheduled a public hearing for the May Council meeting to hear public comment on a proposed VDOT Transportation Alternatives grant submission.

Approval of City’s New Branding Initiative

City Manager Burnette - For several months, Staff has worked with Destination By Design to consolidate the City’s various brands into a comprehensive, overarching brand for the municipality. While there will continue to be sub-brands for

REX THEATER

APRIL-JUNE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FREE MOVIES

APR. 02	GREASE
APR. 09	SING
APR. 16	MAMMA MIA
APR. 23	MARY POPPINS
APR. 30	LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS
MAY 07	ENCANTO
MAY 14	SECOND HAND LIONS
MAY 21	TANGLED
MAY 28	JUMANJI
JUN. 04	DIRTY DANCING
JUN. 11	SHREK
JUN. 18	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
JUN. 25	FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

NO TICKETS REQUIRED. DOORS OPEN AT 6PM, MOVIE BEGINS AT 6:30 PM.

LIVE SHOWS

APR. 04	ROB ICKES & TREY HENSLEY
APR. 11	THE LOCAL HONEYS
APR. 19	COMPTON & NEWBERRY
MAY 02	ARKANSAUCE
MAY 09	CARSON PETERS & IRON MOUNTAIN
MAY 10	COLBY T. HELMS & THE VIRGINIA CREEPERS
MAY 16	MASON VIA
MAY 22	THE LAST REVEL
JUN. 12	BLUE RANGE
JUN. 27	OFF THE RAILS

TICKETS ARE REQUIRED. DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM, SHOW BEGINS AT 7 PM.

SCAN NOW TO BUY TICKETS



TICKET PRICES VARY
RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE

276-236-0329
113 E. GRAYSON ST. GALAX VA

WWW.REX.THEATER
ENJOY THE SHOW!